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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN: The air strikes and firepower used against dissident guerrillas in Beirut yesterday reflect the government's resolve to restore order. At the same time, the Lebanese and the fedayeen leadership continued negotiations for a workable settlement.

The army reacted in strength against guerrillas who breached the cease-fire and others who refused to surrender specific types of weapons, such as rockets and mortars. The durability of the latest cease-fire declared last night depends on whether Yasir Arafat can keep most fedayeen from becoming embroiled in fighting incited by guerrilla extremists. The government also faces the possibility of leftist groups, including Communists, joining guerrillas in the fight against the army.

The Lebanese are still concerned about Syria. A claim of Syrian troops entering Lebanon has not been confirmed, but Syria's closure of the border and Radio Damascus calling on the Lebanese people to join the Palestinians in the fight against the government have done little to quiet Lebanese fears.

Except for isolated incidents in the coastal cities of Sidon and Tyre, areas outside Beirut were quiet yesterday. Army units have moved out of the south to reinforce Beirut. If the fedayeen take advantage of the army's pullout and reinfiltrate the southern border area in large numbers, the Israelis, at a minimum, can be expected to reinforce their side of the border. [redacted] 25X1

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CAMBODIA: The ruling High Political Council continues to make little headway in the selection of a new cabinet. Despite frequent meetings with representatives of two of the country's three political parties, no agreement has been reached on a new prime minister. A decision on this appointment, an important step in restoring political order, has been snarled by the Republican Party's unexpected advocacy of a political nonentity for that post.

The council and party representatives have made some progress in getting together on important policy issues. They have agreed on the need for new elections but, rather than risk further dispute on this delicate subject, have deferred decision on the type and timing. On the military side, it has been agreed to place the armed forces under civilian control, presumably through the prime minister's office.

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USSR: For the fifth year in a row, a joint party-state decree calls for special measures to "ensure" a successful harvest. It authorizes the transfer of men, materials, and machinery from other sectors of the economy to agriculture and provides special wages and bonuses for harvest participants.

This year's decree, although issued earlier than usual, resembles past ones. Most changes that have been made probably reflect problems encountered in dealing with last year's harvest. For example, authorization to sell grain to combine drivers recruited for work in the New Lands area of the RSFSR and Kazakhstan has been withdrawn, probably to procure the maximum amount of grain for the state. Also, unusual emphasis is placed on recruiting skilled labor for the New Lands, whose output saved the Soviets from disaster last year. A significant amount of New Lands grain was lost, however, because of wet weather at harvest time--the new decree promises more grain driers.

This year, crop prospects are still uncertain. Last fall the Soviets were unable to meet their plan for sowing winter grain, and they will need an unusually large spring seeding to overcome this setback. Good weather throughout the growing season and harvesting season could still yield a record grain crop, but it will be extremely difficult to meet the ambitious 1973 target of about 160 million tons of usable grain. 25X1

BANGLADESH: Following the discovery that many import licenses have been issued to fictitious firms, the government has instructed banks to withhold foreign exchange to pay for commercial imports until all licenses can be rechecked. This action, part of the government's effort to suppress corruption, also gives Dacca six to eight weeks to refinance import bills now due. This will serve to delay a further drawdown of foreign exchange reserves, which have fallen from $313 million to $200 million in the last four months, primarily because of large commercial foodgrain imports. [redacted] 25X1

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